

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 29, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-40 are now pending in the present application. Applicant has added new claims 24-40. Claims 24-29 recite subject matter similar to claims 5-10, therefore, no new matter is raised.

I. Title

The Examiner has objected to the title as not being descriptive. Applicant has amended the title to "IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS HAVING DEVICE FOR CHARGING A PHOTSENSITIVE BODY." Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner approve the title.

II Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Minato (JP 4-85562). Applicant submits the following in traversal of the rejection.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein the second side is located on an opposite end of the photosensitive body from the first side" which is not disclosed in Minato.

In particular, in Minato Fig. 8, the distance becomes narrow (from X_2 to X_3) then broader (X_3 to X_1). Further, Minato merely shows that a larger interval (X_3) is formed at a central portion than both ends (X_1 , X_2) due to bending caused by weight of a grid 105. Therefore, Minato does not teach “a charger narrower on a first side of the photosensitive body than on a second side...wherein the second side is located on an opposite end of the photosensitive body from the first side” as recited in claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed patentable.

Claim 3

Claim 3 recites that “the photosensitive body is narrower on the first side of the photosensitive body than on the second side thereof by changing heights of grid supporting portions for supporting both sides of the grid.” The Examiner cites elements 109a and 110a of Minato for teaching this aspect of claim 3. However, it appears that the interval between a charger, element 102, and a photosensitive body, element 111, is the same at the location of elements 109a and 110a. Therefore, a photosensitive body is not narrower at the side of 109a as opposed to 110a or vice versa. Therefore, Minato does not anticipate claim 3.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-23 have been allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-10 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim

and any intervening claims. Claims 5-10 should be deemed patentable, without amendment, by virtue of their dependency to claim 1 for the reasons set forth above.

IV. New Claims

Applicant has added claims 24-40 to provide a more varied scope of protection. The subject matter of claims 5-10 have been incorporated in new claims 24-29. Since the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claims 5-10 are allowable, claims 24-29 should also be deemed allowable.

Claims 30-40 describe that the interval difference between both ends of the photosensitive body is of a predetermined value which is not disclosed in Minato. Consequently, claims 30-40 should also be deemed patentable.

V. Conclusion

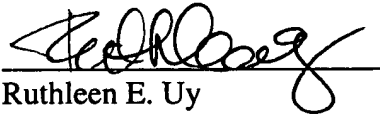
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/687,971

Attorney Docket No.: Q78074

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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